

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247219

EXDIS TOSEC 949

FOLLOWING REPEAT QUITO 7571 ACTION SECSTATE 8 NOVEMBER.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7571

DEPTO 03

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO THE SECRETARY

FROM DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ACON, OAS

SUBJ: STATUS OF DEIPLOMATIC PLAY ON OAS RESOLUTION

1. TEAM HAS LIGHTLY TOUCHED BASE WITH MOST DELEGATIONS. THE STRUGGLE FOR THE 14TH VOTE IS, OF COURSE, THE DOMINANT ISSUE EVERYWHERE. ROGERS AND MAILLIARD HAVE MET WITH SPONSORS COSTA RICA AND COLOMBIA. THOSE TWO AND VENEZUELAN CAUCUSED WITH ECUADOR THURSDAY PM AND HAVE DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING
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STRATEGY, WHICH THEY HOPE CAN PRODUCE SOME AFFIRMATIVE RESULT

FOR THE MEETING. COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO IS TAKING THE LEAD IN DEVELOPING TWO FALLBACK POSITIONS TO THE WASHINGTON DRAFT RESOLUTION.

2. CO-SPONSORS WILL TABLE WASHINGTON DRAFT AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED, BUT INTRODUCE FALLBACK ONE AS AN AMENDMENT TO THAT DRAFT, QUITE EARLY, IF THEIR SOUNDINGS INDICATE THAT THIS NEW FORMULA IS LIKELY TO ATTRACT THE 14TH VOTE. FALLBACK ONE IS A MONDERNIZATION OF A FORMULA PRESENTED BY PERU BEFORE OAS PERMANENT COUNCIL IN 1972. IT MERELY AIMS AT FREEING MEMBER STATES TO NORMALIZE RELATIONS IF THEY CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE. BECAUSE OF EXPECTED DEMURRERS BY PANAMA, PERU, AND PARTICULARLY ARGENTINA, FACIO WILL PROBABLY SEEK A FORMULA WHICH AVOIDS EVEN INDICRECTLY IMPLYING THAT THESE COUNTRIES WERE NOT FREE EARLIER TO REESTABLISH CUBAN RELATIONS. SUCH A REFORMULATION MIGHT SAY THAT ALL STATES MAY FREELY DECIDE WHETHER TO REESTABLISH RELATIONS. FACIO HOPES THAT GUATEMALA AND POSSIBLE NICARAGUA AND BOLIVIA WILL FALL INTO LINE WITH THIS.

3. FACIO'S FALLBACK TWO, WHICH HE IS ANXIOUS WE NOT MENTION TO ANYONE, IS ESSENTIALLY A RESURRECTION OF HIS "REVERSE TWO-THIRDS" FORMULA THAT HE ORIGINALLY DISCUSSED WITH US AND A FEW OTHERS LAST YEAR AND THEN ABANDONED BECAUSE OF THE JURIDICAL PROBLEMS IT RAISED. THIS FALLBACK TWO FORMULA CALLS FOR THE SPONSORS TO INTRODUCE A NEW RESOLUTION, CALLING FOR MAINTAINING THE SANCTIONS. FACIO BELIEVES TWO OR THREE COUNTRIES WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR; ALL OTHERS WOULD VOTE AGAINST OR ABSTAIN. THE VOTE TO MAINTAIN SANCTIONS HAVING FAILED, HE ARGUES, THE SANCTIONS LAPSE. HE ADMITS THIS FORMULA IS LEGALLY WEAK BUT, AS HE PUTS IT, POLITICALLY STRONG, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE IS A GENERAL VIEW THAT THE PRESENT VOTING FORMULA FOR LIFTING SANCTIONS IS NOT VIABLE AND SHOULD BE MODIFIED. THIS WOULD REPRESENT A LAST AND DESPERATE EFFORT TO GET SOMETHING ON THE RECORD OF THE MEETING WHICH THE SPONSORS COULD POINT TO AS LATER LEGAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHO WANT TO ACT UNILATERALLY TO RESUME RELATIONS. WE ARE WILDLY UNENTHUSIASTIC, BUT THE SCHEME MAY COMMEND ITSELF TO A NUMBER OF LA'S IF A DIRECT APPROACH FAILS.

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4. WE ASKED FACIO IF, IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS, THERE WAS ANY QUESTION ABOUT THE US POSITION, WHICH WE EMPHASIZED WAS ONE OF STRICT NEUTRALITY, COMBINING AN EXQUISITE AVOIDANCE OF ANY LOBBYING WITH A CLEAR POSITION THAT WE WERE NOT TELLING ANY NATION HOW TO VOTE. HE SAID THAT HE BELIEVED THAT THE OTHER DELEGATIONS UNDERSTOOD THAT TO BE OUR POSITION.

5. FACIO DID NOT ASK FOR OUR SUPPORT FOR EITHER HIS FALLBACK ONE OR FALLBACK TWO. LIEVANO OF COLOMBIA DID, AT LEAST CONTINGENTLY. HE SAID WE SHOULD BEGIN TO CONTEMPLATE WHAT WE WOULD DO IF, SAY BY MONDAY, IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE SPONSORS COULD NEVER GET FOURTEEN VOTES FROM OTHER SOURCES. A SEPARATE CABLE LAYING OUT HIS ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE INJURY TO THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM FOLLOWS.

6 COMMENT: THE SPONSORS' EFFORT TO STITCH TOGETHER A NEW AND VIABLE RESOLUTION IS THE MAJOR INTEREST IN THE GOINGS AND COMINGS HERE NOW. WE ARE HEARING A GOOD DEAL OF TANGENTIAL GOSSIP, AND ARE ON THE RECEIVING END OF A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ADVICE AND SECOND GUESSING FROM OTHER DELEGATIONS. WE WILL REPORT THIS, BUT WE DO NOT REGARD IT AS CENTRAL. THE OVERRIDING QUESTION FOR THE NEXT DAY OR SO IS WHETHER THE SPONSORS WILL BE ABLE TO SELL FACIO'S FALLBACK ONE TO AT LEAST 14 COUNTRIES. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE
MAW

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